

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to methods and compositions designed for the treatment, management, or prevention of a hypoproliferative cell disorder, especially those disorders relating to the destruction, shedding, or inadequate proliferation of epithelial and/or endothelial cells, particularly interstitial cystitis (IC) and lesions associated with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). The methods of the invention comprise the administration of an effective amount of one or more agents that are antagonists of EphA2. In certain embodiments, the EphA2 antagonistic agent of the invention decreases EphA2-endogenous ligand binding, upregulates EphA2 gene expression and/or translation, increases EphA2 protein stability or protein accumulation, decreases EphA2 cytoplasmic tail phosphorylation, promotes EphA2 kinase activity (other than autophosphorylation or ligand-mediated EphA2 signaling), increases proliferation of EphA2 expressing cells, increases survival of EphA2 expressing cells, and/or maintains/reconstitutes epithelial and/or endothelial cell layer integrity. The invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising one or more EphA2 antagonistic agents of the invention either alone or in combination with one or more other agents useful for therapy for a hypoproliferative cell disorder. Diagnostic methods and methods for screening for therapeutically useful agents are also provided.